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BENTON & SMITH NUT TREE NURSERY
DESCRIPTION AND PRICE LIST 1947-48.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Our policy is to carry as standard varieties, only those we have grown here and which have fruited, proving that they are adapted to this locality and latitude, or those varieties which have their origin in such locations as to make us very sure that they will mature their nuts here and that the trees will prove hardy here.

We also plan to keep abreast of the development of northern nut growing, from time to time adding to our list such of the very best varieties as prove adaptable to this latitude (41°45' N. Lat.). We will occasionally have extra trees of varieties which we will advocate only for more southern locations, until they have proven themselves here, or for those who are collecting various varieties for testing.

We will fill orders in the order in which we receive them and as our stock of many varieties is very limited, we advise ordering early, thereby you may avoid disappointment. We will hold trees until you desire delivery.

We had another very poor grafting season. Weather through most of May was so cold here that very few grafts made union with the stocks. However the ones that did take have grown well so that we have a fine lot of trees. Also we have quite a number of trees which we carried over from last season. We do not charge any more for two year old trees than we do for one year old trees of the same size, but more of the two year old trees will be in the larger sizes. Because of this situation we reserve the right to send one or two year old trees, which ever are available in the sizes ordered. However if you will state the age you prefer when ordering, we will meet your preference in so far as we can.

NUT SAMPLES. In the past, the sending out of sample nuts has helped many to decide which varieties of nut trees they prefer. Therefore we plan to continue this service and expect to have sample nuts available of several varieties. Many are not ripe at time of writing this and weather conditions may prevent proper development so that some varieties, of which we expect to have samples may not be available. Also of some varieties our supply will be limited and we will be able to supply samples of such only as long as the supply lasts.

We charge 10¢ for sample of each variety, but we issue a credit slip with each lot of sample nuts, which can be applied at full value on any future order for nut trees. Thus we furnish samples free to those who buy trees from us. Following the description of each variety we will indicate if we can supply sample.

We may also include free, samples of some other varieties of which we do not have trees this year. An indication from you that you would want a tree of some particular variety would help guide us as to which of these new varieties to start trees for future delivery.

If you think prices of nut trees are rather high, remember that you are getting a shade tree as well as a food producing tree. Also the expense and difficulties of grafting or budding nut trees is far greater than that of most of the fruit trees.

HEARTNUTS.

The heartnut, at least the varieties we have tested so far have proven perfectly hardy here, as regards winter cold.

Please do not confuse the freezing of the new foliage of any of the nut trees by late spring frosts, with lack of hardiness. After many years of observation, the writer has become convinced that none of the walnuts and hickories have any appreciable degree of hardiness against the freezing of the new foliage by a hard frost after the new leaves are out. Our native wild hickories, butternuts and black-walnuts will suffer just as badly as will the heartnuts or Persian walnuts, if located in an equally exposed location and the leaves are advanced to the same degree. Such frost injury will very likely destroy the nut crop for that year, but unless repeated two or three times the same spring, will do little injury to the trees.

It is advisable to avoid frost pockets with all types of nut trees, because of danger of losing the nut crop by late spring frosts. However, many will find that they have little or no choice in this matter and they may wish to grow nut trees. To these I wish to say that I do not consider the danger prohibitive, you may lose only an occasional nut crop and almost assuredly you will not lose the crop every year from frosts. Black walnuts are the best bets in these low places, because they leaf-out later than most of the other species.

As to the butternut curculio problem with the heartnuts and the Persian walnuts. We have found that they can be controlled with a combination spray of four pounds of benzene-hexachloride (hexachlorocyclohexane) and four pounds of DDT 50% wettable powder in one hundred gallons of water. We applied four sprays, one just as the leaves separated in the buds, 2nd spray about one week later, 3rd spray about two weeks after the 2nd and the fourth spray about the middle of July. We had almost perfect control of the curculio on Persian walnuts that were quite badly infested the year before. The DDT may not be of any value in curculio control, but it is well to put it in the spray as it will control various other types of insects and certainly does no harm in curculio control. For small amounts of spray, you will have to figure the amounts of materials to use. Benzene-hexachloride is sold under various trade names, some of which are as follows; Gamtox put out by the California-Spray-Chemical Corp., Gamex, by the Pennsylvania Salt Mfg., Co., Lexone, by the E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.

FODERMAIER- The nut of this variety is of good size, cracks easily, the kernels in large part coming out in whole halves. In flavor it is one of the very best. Ripens here in late September or early October. Tree grows rapidly and bears annually. We have some very fine trees of this variety.

WRIGHT- We consider this variety to be equal in all respects to the Fodermaier and to be somewhat hardier. It also ripens its nuts two weeks ahead of Fodermaier. We believe that this variety will succeed anywhere in the United States. We have very fine trees of this variety. A few sample nuts are available, these will be sent out as long as the supply lasts.

The Wright and Fodermaier blossom at the right times to act as pollinizers for each other. Heartnuts will also be pollinized by the butternut.

GELLATLY- This variety originated in British Columbia and has proven to be hardy here. The nut is large, being only slightly smaller than Fodermaler. It cracks perfectly and is of good quality. It ripens here in late September, about mid way between Wright and Fodermaler. We have very good trees of this variety.

PERSIAN (ENGLISH) WALNUTS.

BROADVIEW- This variety is said to be as good or better than the best of the California nuts. The tree will stand about -25°F . without serious injury. It was damaged considerably by -34°F . on February 16, 1943. It has not bore any nuts for us as yet. We have a few good trees of this variety, both one and two year old grafts.

CARPATHIAN D- This is one of the older named varieties of the Carpathians. It is about as hardy as Broadview, according to it's behavior here in February 1943. We have a few good trees of this variety.

Prices of the above varieties of Persian walnut trees and all varieties of heartnut trees, are as follows;

Over 5 feet.....	\$5.50
4 to 5 feet.....	5.00
3 to 4 feet.....	4.50
2 to 3 feet.....	4.00
Under 2 feet.....	3.50

For prices of Littlepage, our new Crath Carpathian variety, and our new unnamed Carpathian varieties; See our booklet and folder on these varieties. We will have a few Littlepage and S 41 sample nuts to send.

BLACK WALNUTS.

ALLEN- The original tree of this variety grows near Middleville, Mich. $42^{\circ}45'\text{N. Lat}$. First prize winner in 1932-33 Michigan contest. Size 34 per pound. Looks good for northern planting. Has not fruited here as yet. We have only two year old grafts of this variety, mostly small.

BENTON- The original tree grows here on Mr. Benton's farm, $41^{\circ}45'\text{N. Lat}$. Won second prize in 1934 New York & New England contest.

Nuts of the 1942 crop rated by Mr. Reed, rated as follows; 34 nuts per pound, percent of kernel 29.40, percent of quarters 26.68, size small, shell thickness medium, cleavage very good, plumpness very good, color medium, quality good, flavor good, rated A promising.

We personally consider the flavor of Benton to be one of the best, this has been borne out to a considerable extent by the comment recieved from the nut samples we have sent out in past seasons.

It ripens here in early October. We have only two year old trees of this variety. Can send sample nuts.

CLARK- The original tree grows near Lamoille, Minn. 44°N. Lat . Won fourth prize in Northern Nut Growers Assn. contest. Size 28 per pound. Looks like a good one for the Far North. It has not fruited here as yet. We have only two year old trees of this variety, mostly small sizes.

OHIO- This is one of the oldest named varieties. As we have heard so much favorable comment on this variety lately, we decided to graft a few trees of it. We have a few very good one year old trees.

SNYDER- The original tree grows near Newfield, N. Y. 42°20'N. Lat. It was awarded first prize in the New York & New England contest of 1934. The nut is large, thin shelled and cracks out well. The tree appears to be a heavy bearer. Many black walnut varieties shed their leaves rather early in the fall, thus detracting from their ornamental value. Snyder retains it's leaves well in the fall, nearly as well as does Sparrow.

We had nuts of the 1942 crop rated by Mr. Reed, they rated as follows; 21 nuts per pound, percent kernel 25.99, percent quarters 94.90. size large, shell thin, cleavage excellent, plumpness mostly good, color dark, quality good, flavor good, rated A-, promising.

It ripens here in late September, so should mature considerably farther north. We consider it one of our best varieties. We can supply sample nuts. We have only two year old trees, mostly large sizes.

SPARROW- This is still our pet variety of black walnut, we consider it to be as good or better than Thomas as grown here. The nut is not quite as large as Thomas but the percent of kernel is as great or greater. We have had many compare the flavor of kernel with that of Thomas and in every case Sparrow has been pronounced better than Thomas. This variety originated near Lomax, Ill. 40°35'N. Lat. In spite of it's rather southern origin, it is a good variety for the Far North, the tree is perfectly hardy and it ripens at exactly the same time as Snyder and about two weeks earlier than Thomas.

Sparrow retains it's leaves in the fall better than any other variety we have observed so far, slightly better than Snyder and much better than Thomas and Stambaugh.

The nut appears to be very small while on the tree as it has a very thin shuck, however it shucks very readily, the husked nuts coming out exceptionally clean. the thin shuck discourages the husk maggot, this variety being the most nearly free of this pest of any variety we have grown so far. As the nut ripens it turns a very pretty yellow color.

We had nuts of the 1942 crop rated by Mr. Reed, they rated as follows; 27 nuts per pound, percent of kernel 29.94, percent quarters 96.22, size medium, shell thickness medium, cleavage very good, color bright, quality rich, flavor sweet, rated A, very promising. We can supply sample nuts. We have some very fine trees of this variety, mostly two year old, a few one year old.

STAMBAUGH- This variety originated near Galesville, Ill. 40°8'N. Lat. It was awarded first prize in the Northern Nut Growers Assn. contest of 1926. The nut is one of the very best, being large, thin shelled and of excellent cracking quality. Size 25 per pound. We are a little too far north for this variety, in most years the kernels are not fully matured. It should not be planted north of about 40°N. Lat. Farther south it should prove to be one of the best. We have only two year old trees. Will be able to send sample nuts if they mature.

THOMAS- This is the oldest and most nearly standard of any of the black walnut varieties. It is the best standard we have by which to measure the other varieties. We have only one variety (Sparrow) that we consider to be as good or better. Original tree grows near King of Prussia, Pa. 40°5'N.Lat. Size 19 per pound. It ripens a little late here but has not failed to mature well in any year. It is about two weeks later than Snyder and Sparrow. We have some fine trees of this variety, mostly large sizes and mostly two year old grafts.

TODD- This variety probably produces the largest nut of any of the named varieties we have at the present time. It was discovered by Dr. L. H. MacDaniels in Ohio in 1934. The original tree grows at 41°20'N.Lat. It appears to be a very good nut. We will know much more about it after this winter as we have a nice sample from our graft for examination after they have dried. It ripens soon after Snyder and Sparrow. We have some nice trees of this variety, mostly two year old grafts. It holds it's leaves well in the fall.

Prices of all black walnut trees are as follows;

Over 5 feet.....	\$3.50
4 to 5 feet.....	3.00
3 to 4 feet.....	2.75
2 to 3 feet.....	2.50
Under 2 feet.....	2.00

HICKORIES.

At the present time nut growers are almost overwhelmed by a tremendous list of named hickory varieties, of many of which little is known as to their relative merits. In a few years a great deal more will be known about these various varieties, as several test orchards are being established in different parts of the country. We have such an orchard started in which we have more than one hundred different named varieties, these are now beginning to bear and we are getting some fine samples from them this fall, examination and testing of which will guide us greatly in following seasons.

At present, the best guide available as to the best varieties to plant, is a list prepared by Mr. C. A. Reed, Fomer Associate Pomologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Reed is, beyond doubt, the best judge of nut varieties up to the present time. Mr. Reed has listed 14 varieties as the ones he considers best and marks them A, then he has listed 12 other varieties he considers second best and marks them B. However he states that time may prove some of the varieties he has listed B to be superior to some of the ones listed A, also that some varieties not on either list may prove better than those listed.

Another equally valuable source of information, especially for the Northeast, is a copy of "Arnoldia" written by Dr. L. H. MacDaniels, Vice President of the Northern Nut Growers Assn., Inc. and printed by the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

ANTHONY- Shagbark. This variety originated near Sterling, Ill. It ripens here the first of any hickory we have secured nuts of so far, it ripened this year two weeks ahead of Fox. We have a good sample of nuts so will have some first hand information after this winter. We can supply a sample nut of this variety. We have two and five year old grafts of this variety. Rated B by Mr. Reed.

BEE MAN- Shagbark. This variety originated near New Preston, Conn. Said to be an annual bearer. So far as we know it has never been entered in any contest. It is not rated by Mr. Reed but is recommended in "Arnoldia" by Dr. MacDaniels. We have some nice one and two year old grafts of this variety.

BERGER- Shellbark. Awarded first prize in Northern Nut Growers Assn. contest of 1934, miscellaneous hickory class. Originated near Cove Gap, Pa. Rated A by Mr. Reed. Nuts borne on our graft this year, prove that our graft is true Berger. We have some very fine one year old grafts of this variety.

DAVIS- Shagbark. This variety originated within five miles of our nursery. First prize winner in the New York & New England contest of 1934. Nut of medium size, very good cracking quality, flavor rich and sweet, a vigorous grower. Ripens here a little later than Fox. Rated A by Mr. Reed. Recommended by Dr. MacDaniels in "Arnoldia". We can supply a sample nut of this variety. We have some nice one and two year old grafts of this variety.

FOX- Shagbark. First prize winner in the Northern Nut Growers Assn. contest of 1934. Nut a little larger than Davis. Good cracking quality, flavor very good, tree a vigorous grower. Originated near Fonda, N.Y. Ripens early here.

The nuts of this variety have not been up to expectations, as grown on our graft here. We are conducting a test to see if there is bud variation in the parent tree, which would explain the excellent nuts that won first prize in the 1934 contest and the much poorer nuts that are borne on our graft. In spite of the above facts this is a good variety for the North as it ripens early and is a good nut. We have a few sample nuts available. We have one, two and three year old grafts of this variety.

GLOVER- Shagbark. An old variety which has stood the test of time. It originated near Shelton, Conn. The nuts we have seen of this variety are among the best hickory nuts we have ever seen. Rated A by Mr. Reed. Recommended by Dr. MacDaniels in "Arnoldia". We have a nice lot of one and two year old grafts available.

GOHEEN- Shagbark. Second prize winner in the Northern Nut Growers Assn. contest of 1934. Originates near Pennsylvania Furnace, Pa. Recommended by Dr. MacDaniels in "Arnoldia". We have only five year old grafts available.

HAGEN- Shagbark. This is probably an Iowa nut. We have a very few nuts on our graft this year. Rated A by Mr. Reed. We have one and two year old grafts available.

HAND- Shagbark. This is also probably an Iowa nut. Rated A by Mr. Reed. We have only three and five year old grafts available.

JOLLIFFE- Shagbark. This appears to be a very good variety but it originates near Uffington, W. Va. So we do not recommend it for northern planting until it has borne here proving that it is early enough for northern planting. Rated A by Mr. Reed. We have only five year old grafts available.

KENTUCKY- Shagbark. This variety originates near East View, Ky. We have seen nuts grown near Ithaca, N. Y., they were well matured and rated very high by Dr. MacDaniels. The only criticism being that the shell is a little too thin for best cleavage, tending to crush. Also the kernels tend to cling slightly to the shell. We now recommend this variety for northern planting. We have only one and three year old grafts available.

MINNIE- Shagbark. Nuts of this variety rated well when rated by Mr. Reed. Ripens early here. It probably originated in Iowa but we have never found out definitely. We recommend it highly for northern planting. We have only one year old grafts.

MURDOCK- Shagbark. Of far northern origin, the original tree grows on the shore of Lake Champlain in northern New York. Cracking quality good, flavor very best, size of nut about medium. This variety should succeed to the far northern limits of the shagbark. We have only one year old grafts available.

NEILSON- Shagbark. This variety originated in Ontario, Canada. It is considered to be one of the best. Rated A by Mr. Reed. Recommended by Dr. MacDaniels in "Arnoldia". We have one, two and three year old grafts available.

STRATFORD- Shagbark. We do not know where this variety originated. Ripens medium early here. Rated B by Mr. Reed. We have two and four year old grafts available.

SWAIM- Shagbark. This variety originates near South Bend, Indiana. Rated B by Mr. Reed. We have only five year old grafts.

TAYLOR- Shagbark. This variety originates near Stamford, Conn. This is one of the older varieties thus has stood the test of time. Rated A by Mr. Reed. We have only one year old grafts available.

WESCHKE- Shagbark. This variety originates in Iowa. It is very highly recommended by Mr. Carl Weschke of St. Paul, Minn. So must be well adapted to the North. It ripens very early, soon after Anthony. We can supply sample nut. We have only one year old grafts.

WHITNEY- Shagbark. First prize winner in the Ohio contest of 1934. This variety originates near Bersa, Ohio. It must be a very good nut as it won over Wilcox, which we consider to be the best hickory that has borne nuts with us so far. Rated A by Mr. Reed. Recommended by Dr. MacDaniels in "Arnoldia". We have only one and three year old grafts available.

WILCOX- Shagbark. Our pet hickory to date. While the nut is only medium in size, it cracks almost perfectly, ripens early, fine flavor and bears well, bi-annually. Second prize winner in the Ohio contest of 1934. Originates near Geneva, Ohio. Samples of the 1942 crop were rated high by both Mr. Reed and Dr. MacDaniels. We can supply sample nut of this variety. We have only one and two year old grafts.

Hicans are other species of hickory crossed with pecan. They make pretty, fast growing trees and thus have considerable ornamental value. But in so far as the nuts are concerned, they are not in too high esteem of those who know them best. In general they are shy bearers, late in beginning to bear and usually the nuts do not fill well. It appears to the writer that the cross should be taken one generation farther, either crossed back to a good hickory or pecan, or two hicans crossed. Then as the characters recombine, selection might be made that would not have these faults. However we have had numerous requests for hicans in the past, so have grafted a few for those who want them. We have a few grafts each of Bixby, Burlington and Des Moines. All are one year old grafts.

Prices of all hickory trees, including hicans, are as follows;

No. 1 trees \$4.00 each. No. 2 trees \$3.00 each.

We do not try to have a set standard for hickory trees as we do for the walnuts, such as feet or inches of growth, to determine the price of the tree. But rather we use our own judgement as to the trees that appear to be making the best growth, these we class as No. 1. While the trees we do not consider to be doing quite so well, we class as No. 2.

We charge the same for our hickory trees regardless of age. This is because we do not consider the older grafts worth any more than the one year old grafts. The greatest expense and trouble in producing grafted hickory trees, is in the growing of the stocks to a size large enough to graft. After a tree is grafted, leaving it in the nursery row costs only the use of the land. The older grafts may, in some cases, grow into a large tree sooner and may bear sooner, but in general the larger tree suffers a greater setback when transplanted and the smaller tree often catches up with it in size. Many nurseries charge fancy prices for their left-overs of previous years. We are more interested that our customers get a living tree started than that we make more profit on the larger trees.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The supply of the second edition of our little booklet is exhausted. We are in process of getting out a third edition. We are going to enlarge this edition and try to make it a worthwhile book, in fact a Nut Growers Hand Book. The writer, Gilbert L. Smith has it partially written. It will express my views on nut growing in general, care and fertilizing of trees, planting instructions, places to plant nut trees, a discussion of the different species in an effort to aid the prospective grower in deciding the kind of nut trees to plant, etc. Mr. Benton will edit the material, making corrections and suggest such changes as he deems advisable.

While we do not intend to make the booklet any more elaborate than necessary, it will cost us a considerable amount to have it printed. Therefore we cannot afford to send it out promiscuously, free of charge. So we will charge \$1.00 for the book and will enclose with it a credit slip which can be applied at full value on any order for nut trees. Those who have purchased nut trees from us in the past will receive a copy free.

Dear Brother Nut Grower:

I have conceived the idea of compiling an encyclopedia of nut varieties. This encyclopedia would contain on each sheet (one variety per sheet) a picture of an average size nut, the kernels from a similar nut and a cross section of a nut of that variety. All natural size. Underneath the picture and on the reverse side of the sheet would be such pertinent information as; species, family, place of origin, place where sample was grown, detailed rating of the sample from which the nuts in the picture were taken, etc.

The class of photography and printing would be similar to that in our folder on unnamed Carpathian walnut varieties. The making of photographs and the cuts from them is quite expensive.

The encyclopedia to be in loose-leaf form, so that additional varieties could be added at any time and still be kept in alphabetical order. The binder to be of very durable construction and one, that with reasonable usage, the leaves would not wear out around the fasteners. It would be of stiff construction so that it would stand upright on library shelf.

I could have such an encyclopedia published so as to retail for \$5.00 per copy, postpaid. It would contain 50 different named varieties of nuts (several species). Later, as rapidly as I could secure suitable samples of nuts and reliable information, I would have printed similar sheets of additional varieties, one sheet for each variety. These I would be able to sell at not more than 10¢ per sheet.

If you will buy a copy of this book at \$5.00, please write me a post card to that effect. Then, if I see where I can sell 500 copies, I will go ahead and have it printed as soon as I can get necessary samples and information together,

Very truly yours
Gilbert L. Smith.

The supply of the second edition of our book is exhausted. We are in process of getting out a third edition. We are going to enlarge this edition and try to make it a worthwhile book, in fact a Nut Growers Hand Book. The writer, Gilbert L. Smith has it partially written. It will express my views on nut growing in general, care and fertilizing of trees, planting instructions, places to plant nut trees, a discussion of the different species in an effort to aid the prospective grower in deciding the kind of nut trees to plant, etc. Mr. Benton will edit the material, making corrections and suggest such changes as he deems advisable.

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